

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Growing Up

By Walter E. Myer

PSYCHOLOGISTS speak of a state or condition which they call "prolonged infancy." Sometimes they refer to it as "arrested development." They have in mind the person who continues to think and act as an infant or child after he is old enough to have thrown off childish ways.

We are all familiar with these ways or characteristics of early youth. The young child cannot take care of himself, cannot plan, so older people look after him. He assumes no responsibility. He gives no thought to the future. He is concerned only with his immediate wants. He spends much time in play, and is absorbed with his own affairs.

As the child reaches adolescence and approaches adulthood, we expect him to get away, at least partially, from the habits of infancy. He still gives much thought to entertainment. He plays a great deal. This is entirely wholesome—a characteristic of childhood that may be carried even to old age. Happy is the individual who remains playful and fun-loving and enthusiastic and spirited during all his years.

But as one grows up we expect him to begin to plan; to think of the future; to play only part of the time; to engage in useful work; to acquire an interest in it. We expect him to have sober, thoughtful moments, to give consideration to others, to acquire dignity.

In the earlier days of our national history, boys and girls were likely to make this expected break away from infancy and to make it at a fairly early age. Young people had their duties in those days. There was work for them to do about the farm or shop, and they learned to assume responsibilities.

During recent years there has been less for young people to do about the home, and in many cases they have grown up without work experience or responsibility. Many are coddled or cared for after they have reached years which were formerly associated with

work and responsibility. One result is that an increasing number of boys and girls approach adulthood with the habits and mental states of little children.

Everyone has seen the student who gives no thought to the future, who is interested only in

Walter E. Myer

the pleasures of the moment, who does no planning for himself, who allows himself to be cared for, who does the work he is required to do and no more, and who spends as much time as possible in idle play.

Many are the young people who think that everything should be done for them and who make no attempt to carry their own weight in the boat. They do little serious reading or thinking. They do not help to solve the problems of the home, school, community, state, or the nation.

Such young people frequently think of themselves as quite grown up and sophisticated. But in fact they are suffering from arrested development. Their characteristics are still those of childhood. They will find one day that they are unfitted to take their place in an adult society.



THE AUTUMN AIR is filled with political speeches

Election Campaigns

Candidates for National and State Offices Are Going Before Voters to Win Support for November Balloting

IN town halls and auditoriums throughout the country, candidates for office are now putting their cases before the voters. Sound trucks move along city streets, their loud speakers blaring support for one party or the other. Precinct workers ring doorbells, seeking backing for their organization's nominees.

At this time of year, intensive political activity is almost as familiar to Americans as autumn leaves and football games. Every two years there are national elections in November. The campaigns that precede the balloting rise to a high tempo in the latter part of October. The pace is maintained right up to election day—this year on November 7.

The balloting this fall is known as the "mid-term" elections. It was two years ago that President Truman was elected, and it will be two years more before the next Presidential election. But even though no President will be named this year, the November political contest will be extremely important. The outcome will determine the make-up of the 82nd Congress which will play a major role in governing the country during the next two years.

Americans in 47 states will go to the polls next month. (Maine voted in September. See note on page 5.)

They will choose 432 members of the House of Representatives—the whole membership with the exception of the three already elected in Maine. Each representative is chosen for a two-year term.

Every two years the terms of one-third of the 96 U. S. senators expire. This year slightly more than one-third of the Senate membership—36 in all—will be chosen because several Senators have died or retired.

In addition, governors will be chosen for 31 states. Countless other state and local officials will be selected.

Right now the candidates, named earlier this year in primary elections or in party conventions, are busily putting their views before the American people. The Democrats, who now have a majority in both bodies of Congress, want to maintain their hold and strengthen it if possible. The Republicans are out to reduce the Democratic majority and, if possible, get control of Congress.

In mid-term elections, national issues do not usually get the emphasis accorded them in Presidential elections. This is explained by the fact that there are no national candidates who must appeal to all the voters of the nation. Senators and governors (Concluded on page 6)

Israel Is Making Progress Rapidly

Jewish Nation Is Changing the Old Palestine into a New and Modern State

THE new nation of Israel—for many centuries under foreign rule as a part of Palestine—is a miracle of modern progress. In 2½ years as an independent state, Israel has made great strides forward.

New towns, homes, schools, farms, and industries are being built in large numbers. People from all over the world go to Israel to settle every month, and the population, now about 1,250,000, is increasing at a rapid rate.

There is a pioneer spirit in the whole country, an air of youthful energy. Indeed, young men and women are doing much of the job of building the new nation. Jewish youths of high school age and older are active in farming, business, and government. They are helping in education, too, especially in teaching newcomers how to run tractors and other modern machinery.

With all its progress, Israel still has many problems to solve. There are not yet enough homes; about 100,000 people live in tents and wooden barracks. With all the new industry, there is not yet enough business to give jobs to all. With all the newly developed agriculture, there is not yet enough food to give everyone a plentiful and varied diet.

The Arab nations that surround Jewish Israel are unfriendly. The Arabs have fought one war with the new country. Frontier fights still occur between Jews and Arabs. Both men and women of Israel serve in the army. Even as civilians, both share the job of keeping watch in border areas. Serious fighting or a new war might begin at any time.

Despite the problems and dangers, the people of Israel are confident of (Concluded on page 2)



PEACE in the Holy Land. An Arab and an Israeli soldier, enemies in war last year, now share the job of guarding United Nations headquarters in Jerusalem.



TEL AVIV, with a population of 300,000, is one of Israel's fast-growing cities. Two years ago it had only 200,000 people.

Israel's Progress

(Concluded from page 1)

the future. They are determined to make a success of their new nation, a nation that has been the dream of many Jewish people for centuries of history.

Ancient history provides the key to the story of the new Israel, which was known as Palestine until 1948. The land of the Middle East is the birthplace of the Jewish and Christian religions. Its ancient city of Jerusalem is revered as Holy by Mohammedans also. So religion has had much to do with the history of Palestine. (For story on Jerusalem see page 3.)

There was a Jewish Kingdom of Israel in the northern part of Palestine about 1,000 B. C.—2,950 years ago. Thereafter, the country was invaded by many peoples—including the Babylonians, Egyptians, and Romans. The Roman Emperor Hadrian drove Jews from the country in 134 A. D.—and thus began the hundreds of years of wandering by the Jewish people to find new homes in all parts of the world.

After the Romans, followers of Mohammedanism (Moslemism) eventually took over Palestine. Christian crusaders fought to conquer the country at various periods from the 11th to the 13th centuries. The Moslems won the final battles, however. Palestine was for a long period under Egyptian rule. Finally, in 1516, the Turks took it over. They held it as a Moslem Arab land for over 400 years—until Great Britain defeated the Turks and occupied Palestine in 1917, during World War I.

The dream of a new Israel remained with the Jewish peoples through the long centuries.

Many of them did not want to live in a new Israel, but they desired to

maintain it as the international home of their religion. This was especially true of Jews in countries where freedom of religion was allowed. Most Jews in America had no more wish to go to Palestine to live than did Catholics or Protestants.

In lands where freedom of worship was suppressed, however, the story was different. As early as the 16th century, small groups of Jews were going from other countries to build homes in Palestine. The rulers of Czarist Russia staged a campaign of terror against Jews in 1881-82, and many fled to Palestine at that time.

In 1897, Jews of many countries set up an organization to work toward making Palestine a national home for all Jewish people who wanted to go there. This effort came to be known as the Zionist movement. Progress was slow at the beginning. In 1914, at the beginning of World War I, there were barely 100,000 Jews who had found a home in Palestine. Arabs there outnumbered the Jews about 9 to 1.

Organized immigration to Palestine really got under way during the period of British rule after 1917. The British backed the plan for letting Jews settle in their ancient Holy Land. At the same time, the British wished to guarantee the rights of the Arabs to continue to live in Palestine. This idea was endorsed by the League of Nations, under whose mandate Britain occupied Palestine.

During the period of British administration, up to 1948, about 460,000 Jews reached Palestine. The immigration was especially heavy after Hitler gained power in Germany in 1933, and Jews there fled from the Nazi persecution.

Arabs opposed the influx of the Jews, and there were frequent outbreaks of violence. Arab nations formed a league to oppose continuing Jewish immigration. Great Britain tried without success to establish

peace and finally gave up the effort. The British ended their administration and began to withdraw troops from Palestine in 1948. Future responsibility was left to the United Nations, which had been considering the problem for more than a year.

Israel, an independent state, was proclaimed by the Jews as of midnight May 14, 1948. This was done as the British rule ended and as the UN was preparing to try to mediate the Arab-Jewish dispute in Palestine.

Arab nations, led by Jordan and Egypt, went to war against the new Israel at once. Bitter fighting was finally ended, partly as a result of UN mediation, in January 1949.

Jordan kept a little less than half of Palestine under an armistice that followed the end of fighting. Egypt undertook occupation of a narrow strip of land along the Mediterranean Sea. Israel emerged from the war with an area of 5,500 square miles, a little more than half of the territory that had been Palestine. Israel, in size, is about equal to Connecticut.

Final boundaries, however, must await a peace treaty to replace the armistice. The UN has not yet been able to effect a peace agreement.

Israel's progress under such difficult circumstances is truly amazing. The country has established a democratic government which is working well. Israel was admitted to membership in the United Nations in 1949.

The present population of 1,250,000 is about 530,000 greater than it was in 1948. Jewish immigration is continuing at an average of more than 10,000 a month. The city of Tel Aviv has grown from 200,000 to 300,000 since 1948. Haifa, with a population of 155,000 now, has more than doubled in size during the same period.

The new citizens have gone to Israel from more than 30 nations. Many different languages are spoken—Hebrew, Israel's official tongue, Yiddish, Arabic, English, and others.

A 100-million-dollar loan from the United States Export-Import bank has helped to provide machinery and materials for extensive industrial and building projects. Private investors have helped, too. Ford and Kaiser-Frazer, for example, operate plants in Israel. The country is offering special, low tax rates to encourage more private investors. Oil refining, chemical, glass, and shoe manufacture, cutting diamonds, the making of tires and leather goods are among the industries.

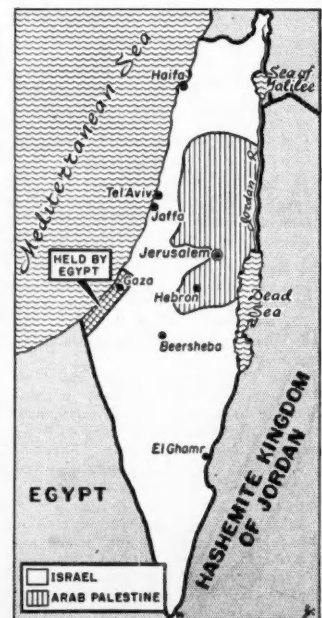
New farm settlements are springing up all over Israel. Pipe lines are being laid to irrigate desert lands in the south. Millions of trees are being planted. Tractors, jeeps, and other modern machines are used in crop production. Fruits, olives, rice, vegetables and grain are major crops.

Israel's big problem at home is to keep producing more food and goods for the rapidly growing population. It has not been able to increase output fast enough in either agriculture or industry to provide for all the needs of the people.

These difficulties led to the Cabinet crisis that forced David Ben-Gurion to resign his post as Prime Minister a week ago. (For a personality sketch of Ben-Gurion see page 3, column 4.)

The Arabs present a special problem. About 170,000 Arabs still live in Israel. They are permitted to govern themselves in towns populated only by Arabs. They share with Jews the job of governing towns in which both Arabs and Jews are living. Economically, however, the Arabs seem to be having a hard time. They claim that the Jews have taken over the best jobs in industry and the best farm land for themselves. The Jews reply that most Arabs are backward in business and agriculture, and that is why they are not getting along well.

There are also about 650,000 Arabs outside the Israeli frontiers, people who fled the country during the war in 1948. They have been living since in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. They are an economic burden to those countries, which have urged Israel to take back the Arabs. It is doubtful, however, that all the refugees will be accepted by Israel.



DRAWN FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON
ISRAEL and the parts of former Palestine under Arab control

Magazines and Newspapers

"Europe Does A Double-Take on the United States," by Louis Dolivet, United Nations World.

With the Korean war, the whole relationship between western Europe and the United States has undergone a series of changes. At first, a number of Europeans failed to realize that our fight represented an effort to discourage all Communist aggression. Many stated flatly that they didn't give two hoots about Korea.

Then came the period of American reverses. European indifference toward Korea changed into deep despair. The average European began asking himself whether the story of American power was not a mere legend.

But finally the tide of battle turned. The Korean war became a new demonstration of our soldiers' courage, and of our nation's willingness to fight for its friends.

The changed military situation in Korea, together with President Truman's statements that he wants world peace and thinks it can be obtained, have made a profound impression on Europe. Communist efforts to picture him as a warmonger have failed. All in all, U.S. prestige in Europe is at a high level.

"Men Against the Hurricane," by Andrew H. Brown, National Geographic Magazine.

Few peacetime assignments of our Navy and Air Force air crews match the danger—and the usefulness—of flying into hurricanes that ravage the South Atlantic. Reports sent back from these airborne weather stations to the Joint Hurricane Warning Center at Miami, Florida, are crucial in preparing warnings.

The shape of a hurricane is like a phonograph record, a thin, flat disc of whirling winds 200 to 300 miles across with a calm area, known as the "eye," in the center. Navy and Air Force flyers use their own techniques for hunting down big cyclones. Both frequently make their way through 75-mile-per-hour winds to the hurricane's eye in their search for data.

Hurricanes today are as violent as they ever were, but they do not take the fearful toll they once did. Advance warnings from the airborne weather stations give people time to put sand bags around buildings and take other steps to protect their property. They can also leave a threatened area to protect their lives.

"750 Missing Planes," St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

If you want to know how much inflation there has been since last April, the Air Force can tell you. It knows that prices have gone up by 750 fighter planes.

A high-ranking Air Force official recently stated that the funds which Congress granted last spring will buy 750 fewer fighter planes today than were intended when the appropriation was made.

Just as the Air Force is being swindled by inflation, so many an American family is paying the price in a pair of shoes not bought, a quart of milk not ordered, a suit or a dress not replaced.



OLD JERUSALEM, with the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in the center and foreground

Now a Divided City

Historic Jerusalem

HISTORIC Jerusalem is now a divided city straddling the boundary that separates Israel from the Arab section of Palestine. Normal travel between the Arab and Jewish portions of the city is prevented by border guards. In general only UN officials, diplomats, and a few tourists are allowed to cross from one section to the other.

A small no man's land, where Arabs and Jews can meet for negotiations, lies between the two major areas. This no man's land is under United Nations supervision. The UN has been trying to work out some plan for reunifying the whole city, but has so far been unsuccessful.

Jerusalem's story can be traced back at least 3,500 years, to a time when the Palestine area was under Egyptian control. Egyptian rule of the territory eventually broke down, and the Hebrews formed an independent kingdom there. David, the Hebrew king of Biblical fame, took Jerusalem as his capital about a thousand years before the time of Christ. Besides building a large palace, he made plans for the construction of a magnificent temple, which was erected during the reign of his son Solomon.

In later centuries, the city was often captured by foreign armies. King Nebuchadnezzar, of Babylon, wrecked it in 586 B. C. The city was also torn to the ground by the Romans, 70 years after the birth of Christ. A little over 1,300 years ago, Jerusalem was seized by Mohammedans, and it remained in their hands most of the time from then until World War I.

Ever since the days of David and Solomon, Jewish people have regarded Jerusalem as holy. The town and its surrounding area are sacred to Christians because Christ lived there. And, during the long period of Moslem rule, Jerusalem became a holy city of the Mohammedans.

Because Jerusalem is thus revered by three great religious groups, the United Nations has sought to place it under international control. Last year the General Assembly proposed the establishment of an International Zone, which would take in Jerusalem and several nearby towns—including Bethlehem, birthplace of Christ. This zone would be governed by some agency of the UN.

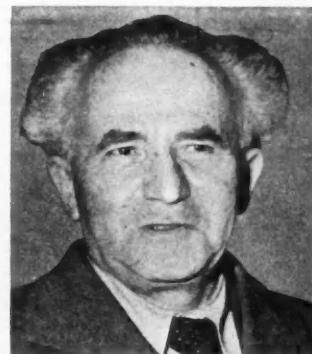
There is not much chance, however, that this United Nations plan will be carried out, because it has run into bitter opposition both from the Jewish state of Israel and from the Arabs. Israel, to make its stand unmistakably clear, has designated the Jewish-held section of Jerusalem as its capital. The city's future remains a subject of discussion and dispute in which the world is interested.

Jerusalem is a place of contrasts. A large section, built within the last hundred years, is modern in appearance. The streets, movie houses, stores, taxis, and homes here provide an atmosphere much like that of an American city. Most of this modern area is under Jewish rule.

In Jerusalem's Arab-controlled portion is the old, walled city, where life goes on much as it did in Biblical times. Donkeys plod along narrow, winding streets. Arabs, in hoods and long robes, carry on their business slowly and deliberately. Many religious shrines are to be found in this older area.

It is here that one finds the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, built over Christ's tomb. Here also are the Dome of the Rock—famous Moslem shrine, and the Wailing Wall—where Jews have worshipped down through the centuries. The Wailing Wall is said to be a remnant of King Solomon's temple.

In area, the new portion of Jerusalem is much larger than the old. The city as a whole has roughly 160,000 people, most of whom live in the modern portion.



DAVID BEN-GURION

Newsmakers

Valentine, Ben-Gurion

DR. ALAN VALENTINE, former president of the University of Rochester, has been appointed administrator of the new Economic Stabilization Agency by President Truman. The agency's purpose is to work toward keeping the national economy functioning properly as the nation rearms.

Dr. Valentine, who is 49, is a native of Glen Cove, New York. A distinguished scholar and educator, he was graduated from Swarthmore College. He holds degrees also from Amherst, Yale, the University of Pennsylvania, other American universities, and from Oxford University in England.

Dr. Valentine has had a long career in education, having taught at Swarthmore, Yale, and the University of Pennsylvania. From 1935 until he resigned last June, he was president of the University of Rochester.

The ESA chief is a versatile man, who has made an outstanding record in industry as well as in education. He is a director of many enterprises, including a financial concern, an optical company, and a railroad.

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DISCORD in Israel's government over the country's economic difficulties caused Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion to resign his position a week ago. President Chaim Weizmann, however, asked Ben-Gurion to remain and the latter agreed to try to form a new government.

Ben-Gurion has given his life to the dream of establishing an independent Jewish state. When he was 14, he left school to work on a farm, because he thought that Palestine would be rebuilt through agricultural labor. Later he worked at many different jobs in his struggle for a Jewish nation.

Ben-Gurion arrived in Palestine at the age of 20. For a time he worked in the fields. Then he was prominent in a labor movement and edited a labor journal. When World War I began, he quickly organized a volunteer Jewish legion to fight with the British against the Turks. At that time Palestine was ruled as a part of the Turkish Empire.

Later, he traveled widely in a number of countries, organizing pioneers for future settlement in Palestine. Ben-Gurion organized a government to administer the country, and in 1944 he asked the world to recognize Palestine as a Jewish national state. At midnight May 14, 1948, his long struggle met with success. The State of Israel was proclaimed.



ALAN VALENTINE

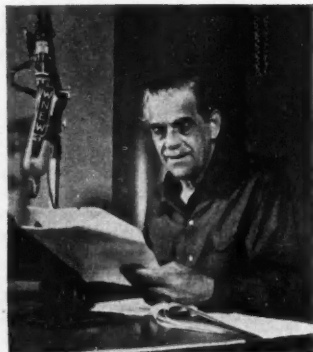
The Story of the Week

Largest Housing Project

Near Los Angeles, California, the world's largest housing development is rising swiftly. On a 3500-acre plot in the Los Angeles suburbs, enough homes are being built to shelter some 70,000 persons, in 17,000 families. Within three years, the development will be a city in itself. Along with the houses, new schools, churches, parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities, shopping centers, and parking lots are being built.

The development, called Lakewood Park, is going forward with almost unbelievable speed. A *Christian Science Monitor* correspondent reported that the builders' pace is extremely rapid. House foundations are dug in 15 minutes, and 100 houses are completed each day, he wrote. Construction has either started, or has been completed, on 3000 homes during the last seven months.

The rapid pace of building is made



BORIS KARLOFF, famous in the movies as a villain, is now doing a weekly radio broadcast for young people in the New York City area

possible by a carefully-timed, mass-production system. Cement, lumber, and other materials are bought in huge quantities, and they are delivered in standard sizes and exact quantities to each building site.

The construction system is a highly specialized one. For instance, floor joists are knocked together by two-man teams who do nothing else. They do not stay to help with other parts of the construction, but move on to the next house. Roof shingles do nothing but put shingles in place; and so on. Special "expeditors" are posted to see no bottle-necks develop. Like military commanders, they contact their men by mobile radio units.

Defense of Civilians

The National Security Resources Board in Washington recently issued a report on civil defense in case of an air attack. Among the recommendations it made are the following:

1. A permanent air-raid-warning system to be installed and operated by the national government.
2. Local plans to provide shelter areas, using as many existing buildings as possible.
3. Training courses in self-protection and fire-fighting to be given to most people.
4. Organization of each community into small areas under a warden who knows the needs of his section and the people who live there.

5. Plans by which one community can assist another in case of attack; also arrangements for national and state aid to be rushed to affected areas.

Do you know how many of these recommendations are being carried out in your city or state at the present time? Finding out what civil defense preparations are being made in your locality would be a good class project.

UN Day and Freedom

Tomorrow is the fifth birthday of the United Nations. On October 24, five years ago, the UN Charter went into effect.

All over the country—and in other parts of the world—supporters of the UN will observe the occasion. Many special ceremonies have been arranged. Among these will be the ringing of bells at 11 a.m., when all citizens are asked to say a prayer for the success of the UN.

Another bell will peal at the same time in Berlin, Germany, to mark UN Day. This is the 10-ton Freedom Bell which was exhibited in many American cities, in connection with the Crusade for Freedom, before it was recently shipped overseas for the Berlin ceremonies. Hundreds of thousands of Americans signed the Crusade for Freedom petition, signifying their backing of the plan to spread the truth behind the Iron Curtain.

Organized to liberate Europe from Russian control, the Crusade of Freedom organization will use funds collected for the most part in the United States to build several more radio transmitters for Europe. The transmitters will spread democracy's message in the Iron Curtain countries.

THE AMERICAN OBSERVER devoted its September 18 issue to the organization, history, and record of the United Nations. *The Civic Leader*, an associated publication for teachers, explained, in its September 25 issue, how schools and students may participate in the observance of UN Week.

Color Television

Television programs in color may start next month over regular TV channels. The Federal Communications Commission, the government agency which regulates radio and television, recently gave the Columbia Broadcasting System authority to go



THE NAVY SAVES MONEY, millions of dollars, by re-working shells that have rusted after long periods of storage. The officer on the right holds rusted 40 mm. shells to be worked on at the U. S. Navy Ammunition Depot in Hingham, Massachusetts. The one on the left holds a clip of shells already renovated.

ahead with the color system it has devised. CBS says it will be on the air with 20 hours of color broadcasts a week before the end of the year.

If present owners of TV sets want to see the CBS telecasts, they must have changes made in their receivers. It will take an adapter to receive the telecasts in black and white, and present sets will need both an adapter and a converter if they are to get the programs in color. The cost of an adapter is estimated at anywhere from \$15 to \$60. A converter may run even higher. CBS estimates that the cost of both will be "at least \$100." Some observers think it may be considerably more than that.

Owners of existing sets need not fear that the new development will deprive them of their favorite shows—at least, not for a long time to come. Most program sponsors, it is believed, will be slow to shift their programs to the new medium, because they want the largest possible audience for their shows. Since the 8 million sets now in use cannot receive color without alterations, most programs will probably continue to be in black and white for many months.

Even in the future, color may never completely replace black and white. It has been a number of years now

since color movies first made their appearance, and yet most films are still produced in black and white.

Greatest Pipeline

The world's largest pipeline has been completed and is ready for operation. Through the big pipe—which is between 30 and 31 inches in diameter—petroleum will flow more than 1000 miles, from wells in Saudi Arabia to the ancient Phoenician town of Sidon in Lebanon. By loading oil at Sidon, tankers can now avoid a long trip around the Arabian peninsula, and through the Suez Canal.

The big pipe is 1068 miles long. It runs from American-owned oil fields near the Persian Gulf, and across Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Syria, before it ends at Sidon, near the Mediterranean. The Saudi Arabian fields are among the greatest oil lands in the world, and hundreds of thousands of barrels are expected to flow through the new pipeline daily.

Some 323,000 tons of steel were used by the American company which built the pipeline. The cost is reported to be about 250 million dollars. Construction of the line started in 1947, but political turmoil in Syria and the war in Palestine delayed its completion.

The pipeline will make it much easier in peacetime for the United States to obtain delivery of the Saudi Arabian petroleum. During a war, however, the line would be hard to defend.

Meeting on Wake Island

Despite President Truman's statements after his return from his dramatic, though brief, meeting with General MacArthur on Wake Island, the full significance of the conference will not be known for some time.

When they met, the two discussed the Korean war, Formosa, and the whole Far Eastern military and political situation. As a result, officials in Washington will have a better understanding than before of the military line-up in that area. General MacArthur and other military leaders in the Far East will have a clearer idea of the goals toward which President



LONDON'S FAMED DOUBLE-DECKER BUSES are being put into service in West Berlin, Germany

Truman and the State Department are striving as they cooperate with the United Nations.

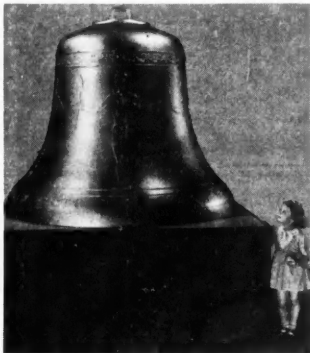
Meanwhile, the UN military forces continue to make gains against North Korean troops, although not as rapidly as formerly. Their next big objective, as this paper goes to press, is the city of Pyongyang, North Korea's capital. While advance units are a few miles from the city, they are meeting stiff resistance.

Football Upsets

The 1950 football season has been marked by surprising defeats of some of the country's supposedly mightiest teams. Highly respected elevens, like Notre Dame and Michigan, were beaten early in the season by squads thought to be their inferiors.

Because of the many upsets this year, sports experts are reluctant to predict which teams will prove to be the nation's best throughout the season. Among the leading ones, as we go to press, however, are Army, Southern Methodist, Oklahoma, California, and Kentucky.

These squads owe their successes to the teamwork of the players, as well as to the strategy devised by their coaches. Nevertheless, individual stars stand out. At West Point, Bob Blaik, quarterback and son of the coach, is an



THE FREEDOM BELL, symbol of the Crusade for Freedom (see "UN Day and Freedom," page 4)

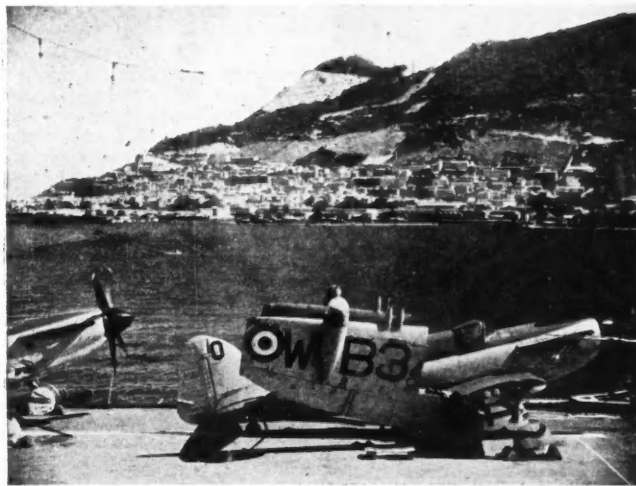
excellent passer, runner, and field general. He has been prominent in Army's victories. At Southern Methodist, Kyle Rote, a brilliant running back, has made headlines; and Oklahoma's star fullback, Leon Heath, stands out on that team.

Although Notre Dame does not appear to have as good a squad as it has had during recent years, its All-American quarterback, Bob Williams, continues to play an outstanding game.

Already Elected

While most members of Congress are now vigorously campaigning (see article on page 1), three members of the House of Representatives are able to sit back and relax, secure in the knowledge that their return to Congress is assured. They are Congressmen Hale, Nelson, and Fellows of Maine. The three have already been re-elected in their state's September balloting.

Maine is the only state which does not have its congressional elections in November. When Maine came into the union in 1820, each state could



AT GIBRALTAR, a deck of the British aircraft carrier *Vengeance* in the foreground. The British Home fleet visited the colony during fall maneuvers. Gibraltar, although less than two square miles in area, is highly important as a naval base for guarding the western entrance to the Mediterranean Sea.

fix its own election day. Officials in Maine chose September as the month for voting. Winter comes early in that northern state and, in the early days, roads often became muddy or snowbound by November. Rural inhabitants would have had great trouble getting to the polls late in the fall.

In time, Congress fixed the Tuesday after the first Monday in November as the day for electing a President. Later it ruled that the states should elect their congressmen on this day, too. However, exceptions were made for three states—Arkansas, Oregon, and Maine—whose constitutions specified different dates for congressional elections.

Eventually Oregon and Arkansas changed their constitutions to conform to the November date. Maine sticks to September for electing its representatives to Congress, but, like other states, it votes for President in November.

Labor in Politics

Labor organizations are making one of the greatest efforts in history this year to elect public officials favorable to policies supported by them. The election next month for Senators, Representatives, governors, and local officials is looked upon as an important test of strength by labor leaders.

Both of the two largest labor unions in the United States, the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations, has a political group to further its interests. Although the AFL did not organize its Labor's League for Political Education until 1943, this union has been active in political affairs for many years. The CIO has a similar group, started in 1943, known as the Political Action Committee.

Both these groups encourage voters to register and participate in elections. They also engage in campaigns to help elect candidates in the interest of policies their unions support.

To carry out this program, the political organizations of the CIO and the AFL set up leagues in many states and counties. Workers in each district campaign for candidates that the unions favor.

According to labor leaders, the main programs supported this year by most of the 15 million union members are: The repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law; improvements in housing and social security; military and economic aid to non-Communist nations; and, mobilization on the home front.

Next Week's Articles

Unless news developments cause a change in plans, the major articles to appear in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER next week will discuss Brazil and the draft and universal military training.

Grey-colored snow has been seen on the planet Pluto by astronomers at the Mount Palomar Observatory in California. The snow is probably not made of water, as our snow on earth is made. Instead it seems to have been formed from gases that froze.

Your Vocabulary

The first four italicized terms below were taken from this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. In all sentences, match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are on page 8, column 4.

1. They talk about matters pertaining (*per-tin'-ing*) to agriculture. (a) concerning (b) not connected with (c) harmful to (d) helpful to.
2. The accusation is *preposterous* (*prè-pòs'ter-us*). (a) true (b) probably true (c) absurd (d) not serious.
3. The purpose of the *Zionist* (*zì'ôn-ist*) movement has been to (a) spread Christianity in the Orient (b) establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine (c) undermine the Communists in Russia (d) improve the U. S. school system.
4. It was done under the terms of the *armistice* (*ahr'mi-stis*). (a) tariff agreement (b) permanent peace treaty (c) constitution (d) truce.
5. *Coercion* (*kò-ur'shun*) had to be used to get the job done. (a) bribery (b) trickery (c) force (d) shrewdness.
6. A *prevalent* (*prév'ah-lènt*) fear is (a) unfounded (b) dangerous (c) understandable (d) widespread.

Tournament. Originally, a tournament was a contest between knights, in which they demonstrated their combat skill. The word comes from Old French *torneier*, meaning "to joust"—that is, to fight on horseback with lances. Today, a tournament is simply a series of contests between teams or individuals.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

A farmer was plowing with only one mule, but he kept shouting:
"Giddap, Pete, giddap Barney, giddap Ralph, giddap Joe."

A passerby listened for a few moments and asked:
"How many names does your mule have?"

"Just one," answered the farmer. "But he doesn't know his own strength, so I put blinders on him and yell a lot of names and he thinks other mules are helping him."

★ ★ ★

He: "Then it's all set. We elope at midnight!"
She: "Yes, darling."

He: "Are you sure you have everything packed in your suitcase?"

She: "I'm positive. Mother and dad helped me."

★ ★ ★

A small boy came hurriedly down the street and halted breathlessly in front of a stranger who was walking in the same direction.

"Have you lost a dollar?" he asked. "Yes, yes, believe I have!" said the stranger, feeling his pockets. "Have you found one?"

"Oh, no, I just want to find out how many have been lost today. Yours makes fifty-five."

★ ★ ★

Then there's the girl who said she had lost her hat . . . and came across it when she combed her hair.

He (at movies): "Can you see all right?"

She: "Yes."

He: "Is there a draft on you?"

She: "No."

He: "Seat comfortable?"

She: "Yes."

He: "Mind changing places?"

★ ★ ★

Diner: "Are you the waitress who took my order?"

Waitress: "Yes sir."

Diner: "You're still looking well—how are your grandchildren?"

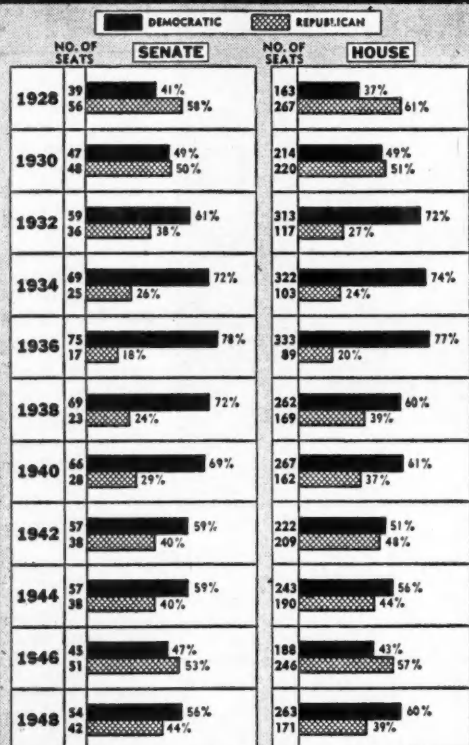


RETCHAM IN COLLIER'S

"Unlike the quiz programs, we don't bother you with a lot of silly questions. All you need here is money."



CONGRESS SINCE 1928



THE CHART SHOWS Democratic and Republican strength, based on election results since 1928. Seats won by minor parties are not shown, so the figures do not always total 96 for the Senate, 435 for the House and 100 per cent for Democrats and Republicans combined. Since the 1948 election, deaths and resignations have changed the line-ups slightly. Left of the chart are two pairs of gubernatorial rivals. From top to bottom they are: Earl Warren and James Roosevelt, rivals in California; and Thomas Dewey and Walter Lynch, who are competing in New York.

1950 Elections

(Concluded from page 1)

are elected by the voters of a single state, while members of the House of Representatives and most other candidates are chosen by the voters of districts smaller than states.

Thus, local issues play a big part in mid-term elections. A congressman from a farm district, for example, is likely to stress issues pertaining to agriculture and the welfare of the farm population. One from a large city may emphasize such things as housing and the welfare of industrial workers.

Numerous local issues are being debated this year. In many areas these local matters and the personalities of the candidates will decide the elections. However, there are a number of national issues which are also being debated by the candidates in the November elections. Among these are the following:

Far Eastern Policy. Republicans are not criticizing the Truman administration for cooperating with the United Nations in Korea, but many of them contend that the Korean war could have been avoided if the administration had not "bungled" foreign policy in the Far East. If we had made it plain that we would vigorously oppose Communist aggression—Republicans claim—the North Koreans might never have attacked. They say, too, that China might never have fallen into Communist hands if the Democratic administration had not followed a "do-nothing" policy in that part of the world.

Democrats reply that we just have

not had the manpower or money to stop communism everywhere as emphatically as we have done in Europe. They point out the quick action of President Truman when South Korea was invaded. They add that Republicans generally were against giving further aid to South Korea prior to the invasion of the country by Communists from the North. Democrats say that, for the most part, their party has been more "international-minded" than the Republicans have been, and has led the way in promoting democracy abroad and in strengthening those nations that are opposed to communism.

Communism. Closely bound up with the Far Eastern policy is the issue of communism at home. Many Republicans charge that the Democratic administration has been too "soft" on Communists. They say that various congressional investigations have indicated that people with Communist sympathies sometimes obtained positions of influence in the State Department. Secretary of State Dean Acheson is accused of negligence in removing Communist sympathizers in his own department, and of failure to check Communist expansion in the Far East.

Democrats reply that the loyalty of government employees has been carefully investigated. They assert that various investigations have shown that Communist sympathizers have not taken any part in shaping our foreign policy. They point to the success of the European Recovery Plan, conceived by the Democratic administration, in stopping the spread of communism in Europe. They also recall how quickly Truman and Acheson acted in dealing with Communist ag-

gression in Korea. On the basis of these facts, they say it is preposterous to charge that Dean Acheson has been "soft" on Communists.

Fair Deal. The legislative program favored by President Truman is coming in for considerable attack from Republicans. They are especially critical of what they say is the trend toward socialism. Under particular criticism are the President's plan to provide compulsory health insurance and the program for supporting farm prices put forth by Secretary of Agriculture Brannan.

While a considerable number of Democrats do not endorse every phase of the President's Fair Deal Program, the majority of them favor most of the proposals. They say there is no threat of socialism, but that the Truman program is what most people want. They are pointing out various achievements of the Democrat-controlled 81st Congress—as, for example, the broadening of the social security program to help retired workers.

How the voters react to these and local issues will determine the make-up of the Congress which meets early in 1951. (When the lawmakers come together again in late November, it will be the "old" Congress. The newly elected Congress will not convene until January.) If the Republicans are to come into power, they will have to make substantial gains. At present the Senate numbers 54 Democrats and 42 Republicans. The House of Representatives includes 259 Democrats, 169 Republicans, 1 member of the American Labor Party, and 6 vacancies.

As usual the campaign is particularly intense in our five largest states—New York, California, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Ohio. The population of these states is about one-third of the population of the entire country. Let us briefly examine the major contests in these key states where the balloting is expected to be extremely close.

New York. Governor Thomas Dewey, Republican candidate for President in both 1944 and 1948, is seeking re-election as governor. He is opposed by Democratic Congressman Walter Lynch of the Bronx.

Herbert Lehman, Democrat, is up for re-election to the Senate. His opponent is Joseph Hanley, Republican. Mr. Hanley is New York's Lieutenant Governor.

The campaign in New York is being fought out on broad issues. Some observers have called it a "re-run" of the Dewey-Truman fight in 1948. What effect the present gambling investigation in New York City may have on the state elections is difficult to say. If charges made against some city officials are found to be true, the Republicans—some observers believe—may benefit, for New York City has been under Democratic control.

California. Governor Earl Warren, Dewey's running mate on the Republican national ticket in 1948, is up for re-election. His opponent is James Roosevelt, eldest son of the late President Franklin Roosevelt.

Two members of the present House of Representatives are competing for the Senate seat now held by Sheridan Downey, Democrat, who will retire in January. Helen Gahagan Douglas (wife of actor Melvyn Douglas) is the Democratic candidate, while Richard Nixon is the Republican nominee.

In California the Fair Deal is a big

issue. Mrs. Douglas has been a strong supporter of the President's legislative program. Mr. Nixon has strongly opposed parts of it. Mr. Nixon, who played a leading part in the investigation of Communist infiltration in government, is one who believes that Communist sympathizers worked themselves into positions of influence.

Pennsylvania. Governor James Duff, Republican, is running to win the place in the Senate held by Francis Myers. Known as a "progressive" Republican, Duff disagrees with many of the more conservative members of his party. Senator Myers is Democratic "whip" and has charge of rounding up members of the party in the Senate when important business is scheduled.

Illinois. Democratic Majority Leader Scott Lucas is fighting to retain his Senate seat. Opposing him is former Representative Everett Dirksen.

The fight between Lucas and Dirksen is a spirited one. The Republicans would like nothing better than to defeat Lucas, who plays a leading role in Democratic affairs. The Democrats, on the other hand, are determined that their majority leader be returned.

Ohio. One of the outstanding contests of the country is shaping up here where Democrat Joseph Ferguson is trying to oust Republican Robert Taft from the Senate. One of the leading Republican members of the Senate, Taft is co-author of the Taft-Hartley Act to curb strikes. Democrats, with strong backing from organized labor, are making an "all-out" effort to unseat him. Republicans are working hard to see that he is returned.

In his campaign Senator Taft is defending the act which bears his name, and is attacking the Democratic administration for its conduct of foreign affairs and its "socialistic schemes." Mr. Ferguson, who is now State Auditor, is attacking the Taft-Hartley Act and is criticizing Mr. Taft for his stand on other issues.

These are not the only states where close races are expected, but they are the most heavily populated ones and will thus elect about one third of the House of Representatives. In Maryland, Connecticut, Colorado, Oregon, and a number of other states, spirited contests are taking place. From now until November 7 there will be heavy campaigning. Then the decision will be up to the voters.



YOU, the citizen, are the boss of government if you use your right to vote

Science News

The National Wildlife Federation of Washington, D. C., has announced its annual Conservation Poster Contest—open to all students in the United States. Contestants will be divided into groups according to their grade in school. Cash prizes ranging from \$10 to \$250 will be awarded. The contest closes January 31, 1951.

The purpose of the competition is to arouse interest in the conservation of natural resources—our forests, soil, birds, wildflowers, fish, and animals. Each poster must carry a conservation slogan, but no other writing should appear on it. The judges' decisions will be based on the importance of the subject chosen, the originality of design, and the excellence of the art work. Posters may be done in water-colors, oil, crayon, pencil, pen and ink, or charcoal.

If you would like to compete, write for the complete rules. Address your request to the Poster Contest, National Wildlife Federation, 3308 14th Street, N. W., Washington 10, D. C.

★

Radioactive materials are being put to good use by a number of industrial plants in Great Britain. Atomic isotopes are used to measure the rate at which bearings wear out. Manufacturers of cosmetics are using them to test various oils used in beauty creams.

In coal mines, radioactive materials show where water is leaking into the mine, and in big factories they are helping to solve ventilation problems. Isotopes can pick out half-filled sacks or cartons, and they can measure the thickness of rolls of plastic as the material comes out of a machine.

★

The Army Signal Corps has developed a new device for laying military field wire—at a speed of 102 miles an hour! The wire is fired from a dispenser which is attached to a rifle or bazooka. The wire can be run over lakes, cliffs, and other natural obstacles without any difficulty.

★

America's rarest birds, the ivory-billed woodpeckers, are to have a new safe home in Florida. An area of about 1,000 acres has been set aside as a sanctuary for the scarce fowl.

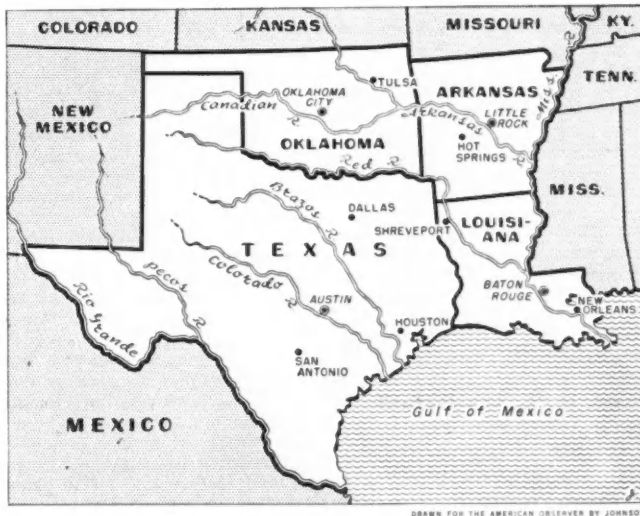
Bird experts, until recently, thought that the ivory-billed woodpeckers were extinct. The Audubon Society had been hunting for the rare birds since 1947 without success. Last winter, however, a few were spotted in Florida by an amateur bird-watcher.

The ivory-billed variety is the largest woodpecker in North America. It is larger than a crow, and has black, white, and scarlet feathers, and a long, pointed bill.

★

The National Geographic Society has additional proof of the elephant's intelligence and good memory. Recently, the elephants living in a national park in Transvaal, South Africa, found their food supply getting scarce. They sent out scouts to investigate near-by areas, and these elephants returned to the park and led the rest of the herd to the greener pastures they had discovered some distance from their home.

—By HAZEL L. ELDRIDGE.



Regions of the United States

West South Central

(Seventh in a Series)

OKLAHOMA, Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana—the four southern states which lie mainly between the Rockies and the Mississippi—present a wide variety of landscapes, industries, and ways of living. Vast plains, rugged mountains, fertile farming areas, dark swamps, and great cities—all are to be found in this part of America.

The region's biggest city is Houston (population 593,600). Next come New Orleans, Dallas, San Antonio, Fort Worth, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa. Considerably smaller, though serving as an important commercial center, is Little Rock, the capital of Arkansas. Its population is just over 100,000.

The four-state region has a total of nearly 14,500,000 people, and more than half of these are Texans. Huge Texas, known for its wealth, its unusual history, and its proud inhabitants, seems almost like a nation in itself.

There is a great deal of basis for the Texans' pride. Famous for the herds of longhorn cattle that it raised during frontier days, Texas is still a leader in the production of beef cattle and other livestock. From beneath its soil come great quantities of petroleum, natural gas, helium, and sulphur. The state has vast areas devoted to the raising of cotton, grain, garden crops, and fruit.

Industrially, Texas is growing rapidly. Especially important are the refining of petroleum and the processing of farm products. The big state also has plants which make steel and chemicals, assemble automobiles, and build airplanes. Its population has grown by about 20 per cent during the last 10 years.

A somewhat smaller growth—of about 13 per cent—was made by Louisiana during the same period. This state, at the mouth of the Mississippi, is a semi-tropical area of rich fields, deep forests, and marshy wilderness. It is also a land of petroleum, sugar refineries, textile mills, and fur traders.

The state's streams and marshes furnish ideal places for wild game, and trappers obtain millions of pelts each year. The muskrat is the mainstay of Louisiana's fur business, but

mink, possum, and raccoon are also important.

The state is a leader in production of sugar, rice, and lumber. Its chief city, colorful New Orleans, is one of the great ports of the nation. A large amount of our trade with Latin America is channeled through that commercial center.

Arkansas, adjoining Louisiana on the north, is well known as a heavy producer of bauxite, the mineral from which we obtain aluminum. It also furnishes mercury and has yielded a number of diamonds.

Most people think of mountains when they think of Arkansas, because that state has the beautiful Ozarks and Ouachitas. However, it also contains some of the flattest land in the United States. Great fields of rice are to be seen on the level plain east of Little Rock. Other important farm products are cotton, corn, fruit, vegetables, and livestock. Agriculture is, by far, Arkansas' most important source of livelihood.

Oklahoma is a land where North and South meet. Cotton, raised extensively in its southern portion, gives way to wheat and corn farther north. Although Oklahoma is a leading farm state, it probably is most famous for petroleum and natural gas. Its oil fields extend for miles and miles. Meat packing, the smelting of zinc, and flour milling are among its chief industries.

The state has a sizable Indian population. More than a century ago, large numbers of Indians were sent there from the southeastern part of the United States. Descendants of these early settlers—members of the Cherokee, Choctaw, and several other Indian nations—are proud of their tribal backgrounds and traditions.

The four-state region has three national parks—Big Bend, in Texas; Hot Springs, in Arkansas; and Platt, in Oklahoma. That in Texas is large and covers a wild, rugged area of mountains and canyons along the Rio Grande. The other two have mineral springs which are widely known for their healing qualities.

(The division of states into regions used in this series is that followed by the U. S. Census Bureau.)

Readers Say—

I believe that in order to stop communism, the people should be educated as to what it really is.

Many people are opposed to communism, and yet they are in favor of socialism. But what is the important difference between socialism and communism? Many forget that Russia's real name is the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and that Karl Marx himself, the founder of communism, was a Socialist.

To fight communism, people should be familiar with the "Communist Manifesto," by Karl Marx. In this, Marx has laid down all his ideas and plans. These can be condensed into ten main points. If people are familiar with these Communist ideas, I believe these ideas can be fought more effectively.

HARRIET HARPER,
Chappaqua, New York

★

I wish that I could personally compliment Pandit Nehru on his plan of working with both Communist and non-Communist nations.

If more countries would try for a better standard of living, and unity of all governments, instead of concentrating on the selfish interests of their particular nation, we would be closer to a world peace understanding.

BONNIE BENKELMAN,
Cass City, Michigan

★

Many of the western powers, including the United States, have been shipping goods to Russia. That is the best way I know of to get ourselves blown off the face of the earth. We sent scrap iron to Japan before the last war, and they turned around and stabbed us in the back with it. I think we should boycott Russia completely.

RICHARD ASPINALL,
Rochester, Wisconsin

★

I believe a good way to stop communism throughout the world would be by having a large army, ready to go into action at a moment's notice. Also, we should take democratic ideas to the small countries of the world in order to convince them that the only real government lies in the democratic way.

I believe the most important thing is having a large army because then Russia will think twice before she starts any



war. Also, Russia doesn't have the material for war that we do; so that should be a big help in keeping the United States out of World War III.

BETTY WEBER,
St. Paul, Minnesota

★

Congress has held up action on universal training until a later date. This program would provide six months or more of military training for young men reaching a certain age. I do not think this would be a good thing for our country, because other nations might not believe that we are trying to make this world peaceful if we adopted it.

GRACE ANN GRAHAM,
Caro, Michigan

Careers for Tomorrow - - In the Steel Mills

LAST July the *Reader's Digest* published an article which discussed work in the steel mills. The writer, Thaddeus Ashby, was a young man who had to leave college because he ran out of money. As he looked for work he found only minor office jobs—one paying \$15 a week. Then someone suggested that he try a steel mill. The worst job there, he was told, would pay \$50 a week, plus a bonus on each week's production.

Mr. Ashby found a job as a sweeper in a mill. Gradually he learned other work—hard, back-breaking tasks—but he liked the mill and stayed on. As his story ended he told of one week when his overtime work would bring him pay to at least \$120. He might, he thought, go on to a job as first helper and earn \$10,000 a year.

Young men might well consider Mr. Ashby's story. Too often people in planning their careers cling to white-collar fields. Those fields are overcrowded and wages are frequently low. Yet work involving manual labor, such as the steel industry, offers good opportunities at salaries that are better-than-average.

Work in a steel mill is hard and it may be unpleasant. Many steps in making steel require workers to be near furnaces. They watch molten iron and steel, and operate huge ladles that carry the hot metal. Consequently, a person going into this field must have good health, he must be strong, and he must be able to do hard, yet fairly precise work with his hands.

Most of the jobs in a steel mill are learned through experience. As a result, the more skilled jobs go to em-

ployees who are already working in a mill. This fact means that the industry offers opportunities for advancement.

When iron ore is brought in to be made into steel, it first goes to a blast furnace. There the metallic iron is separated from waste, or non-metallic substances. Five groups of workers handle this part of the process. The "skip operator" runs little "skip" cars that carry the ore to the furnaces.



WORKERS in a steel mill

The "blast furnace tender" supervises the operation of the furnace and draws off the melted iron at the proper time. The "blast furnace blower" keeps the furnace at the right temperature. The "mixer" takes care of the huge vats into which the metal is poured. The "cinder man," who is an unskilled worker, gets rid of the wastes left in the furnace.

Similarly, a second group of workers carries through the steelmaking process. The duties vary according to the particular jobs and according

to whether the mill uses the Bessemer, the open hearth, or the electric furnace process.

Whatever the process used, the purpose of this step is to remove impurities that are left in the iron and to mix the molten lava with the materials that will convert it into steel. Here again, the workers are concerned with keeping furnaces at the right temperature, with watching the lava and judging its properties from its color, and with cutting off the furnace when process has been completed.

Another group of employees then takes over to operate machines that put the metal in the shape that is required.

Advantages of working in a steel mill include the relatively good wages, to which pensions and other employee benefits have been added; and the fact that job opportunities will undoubtedly continue to be good. They may improve as defense plans increase the need for steel. The wages given by Mr. Ashby are high because they include overtime work. The average for a 40-hour week is now about \$68.

Disadvantages of working in a steel mill include the fact that one must work indoors near hot furnaces, and the fact that there is danger of accidents.

Young men interested in this field should see the personnel officers of steel mills in their locality or they may talk with local officials of the United Steelworkers of America. A book, "Careers in the Steel Industry," by Burr W. Leyson, available in some libraries, discusses the opportunities in the field.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Study Guide

Elections

1. Why is the balloting this fall known as the "mid-term" elections?
2. What officials will be chosen in the November voting?
3. Why are local issues playing an important part in campaigns this year?
4. Give the views being put forth by Democrats and Republicans concerning our Far Eastern policy.
5. What other national matters are sources of disagreement between the two parties?
6. Tell briefly about contests which are attracting special attention in New York and California.
7. Name the prominent senators who are involved in vigorous contests in Illinois and Ohio.

Discussion

1. On the basis of national issues being debated in the present campaign, which party do you favor? Why?
2. If there are elections for governor or senator in your state this year, who are the candidates? Whom do you favor? Why?

Israel

1. What part are young people playing in the building of the new Jewish nation?
2. List some of the problems which still confront the people of Israel.
3. Why have Jews in many countries wanted for many years to make their homes in Israel?
4. What country had control of Palestine from 1917 to 1948?
5. Describe some of the accomplishments of the Israeli nation since it came into existence.
6. Name some of the industries and crops of the new nation.
7. In what way do the Arabs present a special problem to Israel?
8. Who resigned from his post as Prime Minister of Israel a week ago? Briefly give his background.

Miscellaneous

1. Where is the world's largest housing development?
2. Tell of the National Security Resources Board's recommendations on civil defense against air attack.
3. What important anniversary is celebrated on October 24?
4. Briefly describe the new pipeline that has been built to carry oil from the fields of Saudi Arabia.
5. Explain why Maine holds its congressional elections in September.
6. According to labor leaders, what are the main programs which the unions are supporting politically this year?
7. Give one reason to explain why people formerly took a more active interest in politics than they now do.
8. To what position has Alan Valentine been named?

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Pronunciations

Ben-Gurion—bén gōōr'i-on
Haifa—hi'fah
Nebuchadnezzar—néb'yoo-kād-nēz'ur
Tel Aviv—tél ah-vēv'

Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (a) concerning; 2. (c) absurd; 3. (b) establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine; 4. (d) truce; 5. (c) force; 6. (d) widespread.

Historical Backgrounds - - Political Activity

GOVERNMENT in this country is used to be far more personal than is the case now. The early Americans were building a new nation, and they wanted to make certain that its machinery for government worked well. So almost every citizen took a direct interest in political affairs.

Voters got together in town meetings, which now have pretty well disappeared, except in the New England states. The citizens discussed what was needed in their town. Then they voted to make their decision and took steps to see that it was carried out. The voters as a whole were the town council.

Election campaigns were lively, exciting affairs. Young and old marched in parades, to the blaring of bands, and carried banners to support the candidate they favored. The parades very often were at night, with flaming torches to light the route of march. Barbecues, picnics, or big suppers usually followed the parades.

The candidates for office themselves did a lot to add a personal touch to campaigns. They made long, hard tours to put the issues before the voters. Often they had to travel on horseback, or sometimes on foot. There were not too many newspapers. The few that there were circulated slowly. The personal approach was about the only way a candidate had of campaigning for votes.

Frequently, opposing candidates debated the issues on the same platform.

These performances drew thousands of people in the cities where they took place and from farms for many miles around. The 1858 debates between Abraham Lincoln and Senator Stephen Douglas over slavery are probably the most famous of these pre-election debates.

Election day itself was often tied to social events. Families went from farms to the towns for the election. Fathers and adult sons voted. Then they and the women of the family started a round of visiting old friends. In the cities, dancing in the leading hotels often followed the election.

One reason for the great political



MANY NEW ENGLAND citizens still use the town hall meeting to carry on certain activities of their local government

interest in earlier years was that people did not have so many other things to occupy their attention. They did not have movies, radio, television, or the big sporting events that we have today. So election day was an outstanding occasion. Earlier Americans became as excited over political contests as people do today over football or baseball.

Today there still are parades, big campaigns, and election parties. Yet there is much less personal interest in government. Many people give little thought to the nation's affairs, even at this critical time.

Actually, though, the opportunity for citizens to take part in politics is greater than ever before. Newspapers keep the people informed. The Presidents and other government leaders tour the country and may be seen by thousands—or by millions when shown on TV.

Community meetings, which are sometimes held, make it possible for the citizen to take part in discussions of political matters. Politics can be just as personal as it used to be.

Alaska is in a new kind of business—the raising of beef cattle. This business hasn't succeeded before because the animals were often destroyed by Alaska's brown bears. However, a treeless island in the Gulf of Alaska with luxurious grass—and no brown bears—now provides pasture for the cattle.